

The Hong Kong Daily Press

No. 7938

八百九十七

日三金月四年未癸酉光

HONGKONG, TUESDAY, MAY 29TH, 1883.

二年

九十二月五英荷香

PRICE 30c PER MONTH

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS.

May 27. GLAMIS CASTLE, British steamer, 1,558, Port of Antwerp 7th April, Peking, and Singapore 21st May, General.—ADAMSON, BELL & CO.

May 28. GRIFFIN, British steamer, 227, D. Scott, Hoilow 26th May, General.—ADAMSON, BELL & CO.

May 28. DIAMANTE, British steamer, 514, Wrights, Manila 25th May, General.—RUSSELL & CO.

May 28. C. T. HOOL, British steamer, 998, W. Jarvis, Bangkok 20th May, Rice.—THOMAS HOWARD & CO.

May 28. BENALDER, British steamer, 1,330, Harve, Saigon 24th May, Rice.—GRIMES, LIVINGSTON & CO.

May 28. OXUS, French steamer, 2,334, Rangoon, Shanghai 26th May, Mails and General.—MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

May 28. TANDEM, British steamer, 2,183, Green, Sydney 5th May, Townsville 11th, Cooktown 12th, and Port Darwin 19th, General.—GRIMES, LIVINGSTON & CO.

CLEARANCES.

AT THE HARBOUR MASTER'S OFFICE, MAY 29TH.

Hecht, Ger. 3-in. sb., for Nikolajefk. Anza, German bark, for Newchwang. Jacobine, German bark, for Tientsin. Ocean, British str., for Saigon. M. Lebanon, British bark, for Whampoa. Tocan, Chinese str., for Swatow. Mongrel, British str., for Swatow. Benvenuto, British str., for Yokohama. Radnorshire, British str., for Yokohama. Hans, German bark, for Newchwang. Wells, German str., for Hoilow. Alay, British str., for Swatow. Sletor, British str., for Shanghai.

DEPARTURES.

May 28. AMY TURNER, Amer. bark, for Iloilo. May 28. KONG BEN, British str., for Swatow. May 28. ALBAT, British str., for Sevastopol. May 28. TOONAN, Chinese str., for Swatow. May 23. STERTE, British str., for Shanghai.

PASSENGERS.

Arrived.—Per *Glamis Castle*, str., from Antwerp, &c.—30 Chinese.

Per *Diamond*, str., from Manila.—Messrs. D. A. Rodgers, F. Mullins, and D. Paterson, and 155 Chinese.

Per *Greyhound*, str., from Hoilow.—Mr. John (Banker Consul).

Per C. T. Hool, str., from Bangkok.—30 Chinese.

Per *Tanadem*, str., from Sydney, &c.—Messrs. McBay, Malvin, and J. Kelly, and 200 Chinese.

Per *Gas*, str., from Shanghai.—For Hong Kong.—Three Chinese. For Port Said.—Mr. Chirkoff. For Naples.—Mr. Belzakoff. For Marseilles.—Mrs. T. Ross, Messrs. Kolvig, Pofke, and Smith.

Departed.—Per *Kunming*, Merv. str., for Kobe, &c.—Mrs. Ota Kasan, Mr. Feideler, and 10 steers.

REPORTS.

The British steamer *C. T. Hool* reports no damage.

The British steamer *Benalder* reports fine, clear weather, light breeze, and smooth sea throughout.

The British steamer *Greyhound* reports first part of peace calm and fine weather; latter part heavy squalls and rain from N.E. and East.

The British steamer *Glamis Castle* reports fine weather throughout the morning of the 27th, when she had strong N.E. swell and very threatening weather.

The British steamer *Diamond* reports light variable winds and fine weather, until within 60 miles of the China Coast; then to port high Westerly winds and rainy weather.

The British steamer *Tanadem* reports left Sydney 1st May, and arrived C. M. Manila 6th May, and arrived Townsville 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, and arrived Cooktown 8th, 9th, 10th, and left again 4th, same day for Thursday Island; arrived 1 p.m., 14th, left 5 p.m., 15th; arriving at Port Darwin 2 p.m., 18th, left again 8 a.m., 19th, and passed through the Straits of Carpentaria 2 p.m., 20th, and arrived under a Warwitz dated 7th March.

1 Dozen Quarts 83.50.
2 Dozen Pints 83.50.

Apply to ARNOLD, KARBERG & CO., Hongkong, 23rd August, 1882.

FOR SALE.

W. B., Office of this Paper, 1959

FOR SALE: JUST RECEIVED.

REAL SCHIEDAMSCHE JENNER, PRINCE OF WALES IN STONE BOTTLES, 2400.

D. TOWNSEND'S

AROMATIC HOLLANDS TONIC, POMERANZ BITTERS.

BREATH-LOADING GUNS, RIFLES, REVOLVERS, CARTRIDGES AND SHOTS, J. F. SCHOFFELER, Nos. 21 and 23, Pottinger Street, Hongkong, 1st June, 1882.

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ECONOMY IN GAS.

SUGG'S FLAT FLAME BURNERS
effect an economy in gas.

30 Per Cent.

And can be readily attached to ordinary Gas-
lers and Brackets.SUGG'S NEWEST BURNERS with
Artistic shades for Drawing Room and Dining
Room.LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.,
Agents for Hongkong.ARTISTIC PORCELAIN M E N U
STANDS.HAND-ETCHED MENU and NAME
CARDS.

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

DEVOE'S NONPARUEL KEROSINE,
150 degrees fire test, a perfectly safe oil.

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

Hongkong, 5th May, 1883. [632]

NOTICE.

S. WATSON & CO.
FAMILY AND DISPENSING
CHEMISTS.By Appointment to His Excellency the Governor
and his Royal Highness the Duke of EDINBURGH,
WHOLESALE AND RETAIL DRUGGISTS,
PERFUMERS.PATENT MEDICINE VENDORS,
DRUGGISTS' SUPPLIES,And
AERATED WATER MAKERS.SHIPS' MEDICINE CHESTS REFITTED,
PASSENGER SHIPS SUPPLIED.NOTICE.—To avoid delay in the execution of
Orders it is particularly requested that all
business communications be addressed to the
Firm, S. WATSON & Co., or

HONG-KONG DISPENSARY. [23]

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Communications on editorial matters should be
addressed "The Editor," and those on business "The
Manager," and not to individuals by name.Correspondents are requested to forward their
name and address with communications addressed to the
Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good
faith.All letters for publication should be written on
one side of the paper only.Advertisements and Subscriptions which are not
ordered for a fixed period will be continued until
terminated.Orders for extra copies of the *Daily Press* should
be sent before 11 a.m. on the day of publication.
After that hour the supply is limited.

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able fluency in the Council. The Chinese
community will be asked to recommend another
gentleman of their nationality to represent them, and unless there are good
reasons for disagreeing with the recommendation,
their nominees will be accepted. There are many Chinese gentlemen whose
position fully entitles them to the honour, but only a few whose knowledge of English
is sufficient to qualify them for the post. It
would be impudent for us to indicate
any individual; the Chinese may safely
be left to select the best all round man. Sir
Georges Bowen, wise, and more liberal than
his predecessor in office, instead of being
guided by his own prepossessions and pick-
ing out a man, will ask the Chinese to
signify the gentleman whom they most
desire to honour.

The O. & O. steamer *Oceanic* was to be docked
at Shantung yesterday.

According to a letter from Colu, dated the
14th instant, published in the *Comercio*, the
cholera epidemic was still raging at that place.

We have received a copy of the April number
of the *Revista Filippina de Ciencias y Artes*. The
contents are varied and attractive.

According to the *Comercio* of the 21st May,
the Governor-General of the Philippines, after
progressing favourably for three days, had suffered
another relapse.

As will be observed on reference to the Com-
pany's notice on our third page, the departure
of the O. & O. steamer *Oceanic* is postponed to
Saturday next at 3 p.m.

The Agents (Messrs. Geo. R. Stevens & Co.)
inform us that the steamer *Ericsson* left Sydney
on the 26th inst. for Hongkong, via Queen'sland
ports and Port Darwin, and is due here on or
about the 24th proxime.

The Chinese are waiting some more of their
money in building *etc.* Two vessels for
such defence are being built at Shanhai for the
Viceroy of those provinces. They are to carry
heavy guns, which are intended to be landed.
They are to be plated with four inches of teak.
They are of a type which was tried during
the war with Russia thirty years ago—floating bat-
teries for the Baltic. Who are they going to
defend their coasts from? The Japanese?—Mer-
cury.

Referring to the telegraph question at Shang-
hai, the *Courier* says:—The ownership of the
Wusong land line belonging to the Great
Northern Company has now actually been
handed over to the Chinese Imperial Telegraph
Company, and the management of the line, the
Great Northern Co.'s operators will continue to
receive and forward the messages, and perform
the work in every other respect in it as they did
before. The ownership is simply nominal
transferred to the Chinese. Land has been
obtained adjoining the French gondowns at
Wusong for a cable house of the Eastern
Expansion Co., and erection of the same is
now in progress.

Return of visitors to the City Hall Museum for
the week ending 27th May—

EUROPEAN. CHINESE.
Monday 17 375
Tuesday 40 238
Wednesday 12 238
Thursday Holiday Holiday
Friday 24 308
Saturday 23 372
Sunday 1000 1000

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The Brisbane correspondent of the *Sydney
Morning Herald*, writing under date of the 27th
ult., says in reference to the departure of Sir
Arthur Keeney:—“The poor old Governor is
so unwell that he was compelled to decline the
banquet in his honour which the citizens of
Brisbane would gladly have got up. So a com-
mittee was appointed to a public dinner, and signed
by the Mayor, and wait on his Excellency to
make a formal presentation. This was read,
but the illuminating has still to be done. His
Excellency was manifestly gratified by the token
of public esteem, and wrote a short speech in
cordial acknowledgment. He was requested to
make a speech at Government House. A
few words of thanks, then requested his father to
speak for her. She always calls Sir Arthur
father—a good example.”

The Steamer *Cast* left Hankow on the 29th
at 4 a.m., and passed Chinkiang at 6.30 a.m. on
the 23rd arriving at Wusong early in the
afternoon. She proceeded direct to sea and when
last seen was going speedily. We (*N. C. Daily
News*) learn that while coming down the river her
engines worked with the greatest smoothness.
Her captain expects to make the passage home
in twenty-six days. At the rate she was going,
she would arrive in Hongkong on the 26th ult.,
and be ready to start for Japan on the 27th.

The *Cast* was captured at Shanghai on the morning
of the 29th, and reported that she passed the
Glenly at 11.10 the previous night; three
miles inside the Tungsha Lightship. The
report says:—“She was travelling at a
fearful speed; in fact, the water going right up
her bows—pipes.” The following information
has been supplied to the *Mercury* by
investigators, or it may be shipjammers and spec-
ulators, in the numerous colonial under-
takings. “We are certain and suggestion
we cannot be sure, that the mercantile interest
in this Colony is the predominant one, that
the mercantile members would represent the
import, export, and shipping trades, the
public companies, and the industrial under-
takings, and that therefore they are the
most fitting and most capable representa-
tives of the public of Hongkong. With
regard to the formation of an electoral body in
this Colony we have avoided making any
such proposal, well knowing that it is utterly
impracticable. We have more than once
suggested the formation of a Municipal
Council, like that at Singapore, believing
that there is no insuperable obstacle to the
establishment of such a body, but it has
never occurred to us to propose the election
of the unofficial members of Council by the
community because there is no chance of the
Secretary of State for the Colonies enter-
taining such proposal. Crown Colonies are
either purely military or naval stations, dep-
tions of British commerce, or small tropical
islands in which the vast bulk of the inhab-
itants are of Asiatic or African origin. In
each case it is deemed advisable by the Im-
perial Government that the administration
should be carried on by a Governor respon-
sible to the Colonial Office, but assisted by
a Council, which, however, is only representa-
tive in a limited sense. Sir George
Bowen is desirous of seeing his Council
made as thoroughly representative as
possible compatible with the rules of
the Colonial Office, but he naturally
does not suggest the formation of an
electoral body because he knows it would not
be sanctioned in Downing-Street. The question
is not therefore worth considering, and
would never have been broached by the *N.
C. Daily News* had the writer in that journal
been better acquainted with the Colony. The
remarks of our Shanghai contemporary re-
lative to the appointment of a Chinese mem-
ber of the Legislative Council are scarcely
more appropriate. Mr. No Choy was per-
haps hardly a fit representative by train-
ing or experience of the great mercantile
interests of the Chinese residents in this
Colony, but he was well acquainted with
the wants and wishes of his countrymen, got
to know their pulse, so to speak, and, we be-
lieve, enjoyed their confidence. He could,
moreover, express his views with consider-

The German frigate *Storch* left the anchorage
at Shanghai on the 23rd for Woosung. After a short
stay there she is expected to pay Chao-fu a visit
and then to proceed to Nagasaki on the 26th. After
the General Manager (Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co.) inform us that the Indo-China
S. C. Co.'s chartered steamer *Seneca*, from Colu,
left Singapore on Sunday, the 27th inst.

News has been received in Shanghai of the
arrival in Paris of M. Garnier, formerly French
Consul-General at Shanghai. M. Garnier was a
man of sixty-five, and well-to-do. No reason has
been assigned for the fact.

H. B. M.'s corvette, *Cleopatra*, arrived at the
Polo Bay, Shanghai, on the 23rd last, from
Amoy. Vice-Admiral Willes was to have
arrived on the 25th, probably for Chin-
king, accompanied by the *Aboukir* and *Pegasus*,
and those vessels were to take up some of the
officers of the *Aboukir* and *Cleopatra* at Woosung.

This was very different, however, to the present
one, inasmuch as it was a continuing
guarantee not under seal, and one in which
the testator had reserved to himself the right
of putting an end to it at any time he
should so desire. The testator deliberately
left his will in a state of some other way
than he intended to leave it, and it is for this
that I am compelled to re-open it. See Looka
pp. 188, Taylor, L. C. Hansen v. Cox, 3 Bea.
379; Evans v. Bromfield, 8 D. & G. M.
G. 100; Cooper and Evans, L. R. 4, Eq. 45.

I think I must assume until the contrary
is proved that such a bond was duly executed, for
France also contended that as the *Seneca* was
not in the service of the Bank, the
Bank's right to sue for the debt would not be
so much as that the *Seneca* was a passenger
of the *Aboukir* and *Pegasus* at Woosung.

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would snap their fingers at mandarins who tried to influence their political conduct, here there is too much reason to fear they would be entirely controlled by their officials, especially in any case where the interests of foreigners and the interests of the majority of the Government coincided.—*H. C. Daly News.*

LATE TELEGRAMS.

The following telegrams are from Australian papers brought on by the *Timazee*, Captain Green—

LONDON, 23rd April.

The Orient Steam Navigation Company pays no dividend on the past half-year, but carries £1,000 to the reserve fund.

It is believed in official circles that the Imperial Government will sanction the annexation of New Guinea.

27th April.

The Government having completed the necessary arrangements, the Department of Agriculture, which has been under consideration for some time, has been formed. The Right Hon. J. G. Walpole has been appointed Minister.

An important addition has made to the police to-day at Northampton, where a man was discovered, at which large quantities of nitro-glycerine were being manufactured without the knowledge of the authorities.

Mr. Parnell has sent a communication by cable to the Irish National Convention, now sitting in America, strongly advising the delegates to adopt a prudent programme.

28th April.

The P. & O. Company's *R.M.S. Indus*, while steaming down the Thames, outward bound for Australia, grounded off Banking Reach, in the Thames, during a fog. It is expected, however, that the vessel will float off with the next high tide.

A deputation of London merchants has interviewed the Earl Granville in regard to the traffic through the Suez Canal. Earl Granville, in reply, advised the deputation to make a scheme for doubling the facilities for traffic through the Canal. He promised that the Government would consult with the Earl of Dufferin, British Ambassador at Constantinople, upon the matter.

The British ship *Commerce*, which sank in the English Channel at midnight on Tuesday, after being in collision with the *County of Abersden*, had no passengers on board at the time of the disaster. She had a general cargo of 2,100 tons. The weather was so thick at the time of the collision that neither captain saw the lights of each other's vessel.

3rd May.

At a banquet given by the National Liberal Club, at which 2,000 persons (700) were present, Mr. Gladstone stated that the artificial obstruction of the Conservative party had hampered the Government, and delayed the reform which the country so much desired.

Queen Victoria's diamond jubilee is dead.

Such a large number of English are offering themselves as informers that the government are placed in an embarrassing condition.

Keeps, for the brutal murder at Cork, has been exonerated.

James Fitzpatrick was arraigned for the Phoenix Park murders on Monday last.

A certain named Stanley, belonging to a British ship, was rescued from the wreckage, after being thrown overboard in a watery hole.

A meeting of British shipowners is called for the 10th of this month, its object being formation of a company for the construction of a canal across the Isthmus of Suez. The course contemplated will be some distance from the old canal.

A strict investigation is being carried on in Counties Clare and Cork respecting the recent naval conspiracies.

Conor, a prominent Fenian agitator, is impaled and is to be exposed to the public in the sacristy of an English church at Cork.

Another explosive letter has been sent to the Honourable Forster, Ex-Secretary of State for Ireland. The police are endeavouring to identify the sender.

17th May.

The German Chancellor Bismarck, who has been suffering from neuralgia, is now recovering.

Several English ships are in an unseated state. One is dismasted with the existing arrangements.

Joseph Brady was exonerated at Dublin on the morning of the 14th instant. Over 10,000 people were present. There was no attempt to create a disturbance.

The attempt made by the Adelaide police to suppress racecourses which has been frustrated by the magistrate (Mr. Beddoes) remains to be seen.

The South Australian Government refuses to assist direct Maltese emigration to South Australia. Those desirous of emigrating must first proceed to London, the name as all other emigrants.

There is an agitation among the Adelaide artisans who are against using Sydney stone in the erection of the proposed House of Parliament. A public meeting will be held on the subject on Saturday.

The Star Canal is blocked by the burning of the steamer *Singapore*.

The King of Dahomey is enraged because the Portuguese have ceded the Whydah Territory to the British.

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

OPium.

MONDAY, 28th May.

Sales of New Pains at \$310, and of Old at \$337. Of New Honors sales at \$365. Market weak.

EXPORT CARGO.

Arrived for Yokohama—200 pieces merchandise. For San Francisco—7,000 bags rice, 130 bags black paper, 2,000 bags gunnies, 50 bags cinnamon, 20 bags tobacco, 4,130 bags sugar, 210 bags papier, 10 cases silk goods, 60 boxes prepared opium, 20 boxes crude opium, 1,745 empty quicksilver tanks, 163 pkgs. tea, 371 pkgs. firewood, and 1,123 pkgs. merchandise. For Victoria, B.C.—191 bags rice, 7 pkgs. crude opium, 334 pkgs. merchandise, and 130 bags tobacco. For Calcutta—200 bags merchandise, and 3,710 bags rice. For Canton—2 cases silk goods, and 125 cases merchandise. For Valparaiso—4 pkgs. merchandise. For Demerara—20 pkgs. merchandise. For Boston—310 pkgs. tea. For Chicago—863 pkgs. tea. For New York—16 bags raw silk, 12 pkgs. merchandise, and 7,630 pkgs. tea.

EXCHANGE.

ON LONDON.—Bank Bills, on demand 37/1 Bank Bills, 3 days' sight 37/4 Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight 37/4 Credit, at 3 months' sight 37/4 Documentary Bills, at 4 months' sight 37/4

sight 37/4

ON PARIS.—Bank Bills, on demand 45/6 Credits, at 4 months' sight 45/4

ON BOMBAY.—Bank, 3 days' sight 223

ON CALCUTTA.—Bank, 3 days' sight 223

ON HONGKONG.—Bank, sight 72/4

Private, 30 days' sight 73/1

SHANGHAI.

Hongkong and Shanghai Bank Share—147 per cent. For San Francisco—147 per cent. Yantze River Insurance Association—115 per cent. premium.

Union Insurance Society of Canton, Limited—132 per cent.

China Traders' Insurance Company's Shares—\$2,450 per share.

North China Insurance—Tls. 1,600 per share.

Yangtze River Insurance Association—Tls. 975 per share.

China Insurance Company, Limited—\$215 per share.

On Tai Insurance Company, Limited—Tls. 148 per share.

Guangzhou Insurance Company's Shares—\$2,450 per share.

Hongkong Fire Insurance Company's Shares—\$1,970 per share.

China Fire Insurance Company's Shares—\$355 per share.

White and Whampoa Dock Company's Shares—15 per cent. premium.

Hongkong and Macao Steamship Co.'s Shares—\$45 premium.

Indo-China Steam Navigation Co.'s Shares—5 per cent. premium.

China and Manilla Steamship Company, Limited—20 per cent. premium.

Hongkong Gas Company's Shares—\$82 per share.

Hongkong Hotel Company's Shares—\$130 per share.

China Sugar Refining Company, Limited—\$125 per share.

China Sugar Refining Company (Debentures)—1 per cent. premium.

Linson Sugar Refining Company, Limited—\$70 per share.

Hongkong Company's Shares—\$165 per share.

China and China Bakery Company, Limited—\$100 per share.

Chinese Imperial Loan of 1874—Nominal.

Chinese Imperial Loan of 1872—Nominal.

Chinese Imperial Loan of 1881—3 per cent. premium.

HONGKONG TIDE-TABLE.

18TH MAY TO 24TH JUNE, 1883.

HIGH WATER. LOW WATER.

Y. M.	Hongkong Mean Tide	Height.	Hongkong Mean Tide	Height.
May 18	1 15 84	2 25	1 15 84	2 25
W. 19	1 14 54	2 24	1 14 54	2 24
Th. 20	1 14 24	2 23	1 14 24	2 23
F. 21	1 13 54	2 22	1 13 54	2 22
S. 22	1 13 24	2 21	1 13 24	2 21
M. 23	1 12 54	2 20	1 12 54	2 20

The height of mean sea-level has been determined at 7,595 feet above the level of the sea, and the height of the Hongkong and Lower Ordinary Spring Tides, to which the heights in these Tables are referred, as 8,595 feet above.

The heights in the Table will be within a minus (—) sign above the Low-Water Spring-Tides, and should be subtracted from the heights given above.

The height of the Tides will be within a plus (+) sign above the High-Water Spring-Tides, and should be added to the heights given above.

The height of the Tides will be within a minus (—) sign above the Low-Water Ordinary Spring-Tides, to which the heights in these Tables are referred, as 8,595 feet above.

The heights in the Table will be within a plus (+) sign above the High-Water Ordinary Spring-Tides, to which the heights in these Tables are referred, as 8,595 feet above.

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The heights in the Table will be within a plus (+) sign above the

EXTRACTS.

THE PAST.

I muse on the past with a tender sigh,
Till sadness falls like dark cloud o'er me,
On my youthful days, when Hope was high,
And life, like a garden, spread before me—
Sweet boughs of promise bloomed therein,
And a light shone in golden glory.
Alas! from such blossoms no fruit we win,
Ere winter comes on its pinions heavy.
And Love was the brightdest of all that grew;
'Twas the rose that garden fate adored—
A wild enchantment round it drew—
'Twas bathed in the purest hues of morning;
Its blushing leaves were in dew arrayed,
Like sparkling gems in sunshiny gleaming,
And the sunshining breeze that round it played,
Seems music heard from the hand of creation.
Alas! that our earthly treasures decay,
Each blushing vision the heart has cherished;
But Memory's pang will not pass away—
The thorn lives on when the flower has perished.

UNCONSCIOUS WIT.

An English waiter was both witty and sarcastic, and didn't know the fact—"Do you call that a sweet outlet, waiter?" said a London exquisite, one of the most delicate types even in that favoured region of exquisites, the West End. "Why, sir, such a veal cutlet as that is an insult to every self-respecting calf in the British Empire!" The waiter hung his head in very shame for a moment, and then replied, in the language of humblest apology, "I really didn't intend to insult you, sir."

EXECUTIONS IN GERMANY.

The recent execution in Berlin of the coachman Conrad, for the brutal murder of his wife and four children, has led to publication in the German newspapers of some interesting statistics relative to the infliction of the death penalty in Germany. Between 1854 and 1868 inclusive, of 213 persons condemned to decapitation, 186 were executed; but between 1869 and 1878, although no less than 423 persons were condemned, none were executed; and the executions were only resumed after the attempt of Henkel, who perished on the scaffold on August 16, 1879. In 1879 and 1880, however, there were no executions, and in each of the years 1881 and 1882 there were but two. This year Conrad is the second prisoner whose death sentence has been carried into effect. The German executioner's name is Krauts, and he has four assistants, whose duty it is to divest the victim of his outer clothing, and to bind him with leather thongs to the block. Krauts deals the fatal blow with an axe, usually severing the head from the body at the first stroke; and the remains of the prisoner are at once covered with black cloths, placed in a coffin, and borne away for immediate burial.

OYSTER SHELLS.

A new use has been discovered for oyster shells. For years they have been used for the manufacture of lime, as manure, for decorative purposes, and in the preparation of cheap imitation of marble; but it is now found that they cannot be better utilized than by being thrown in quantities into the sea, where they make the best possible foundation for new oyster-beds. In July and August next many ship loads of these empty shells will be sent by English and French oyster farmers in various places suitable for the purpose; and a few healthy living oysters will then be dropped upon the same spots. Experiments have proved that under such conditions the bivalves will shortly multiply to an almost incredible extent; and it is said that in so brief a period, as two years, each empty shell will have from 30 to 40 young oysters attached to it. The new generation can then be reared to make room for more, and fattened for market in specially constructed tanks. It is hoped that this discovery of the value of oyster-shells as a foundation for fresh and very productive beds may within a reasonable time lead to a considerable decrease in the present high price of native oysters.

"NOBLE SPORT."

On the authority of the *Courrier de Bone*, "Lord Paget, Lieutenant-General and Gentleman Groom to her Majesty Queen Victoria," has been indulging himself with some curious "sport" in Algeria. He caused his steamer to land in a carried island and launched on Lake Fezzan. The object of his trip was wild bird shooting, and he having apparently big ideas on the subject, had a gun mounted on a carriage in the rear of the launch. This gave him a "trot," a breed-leading steamer, carrying 1000 yards, loaded with shot steel, and worked by two gunners from the middle of the boat. Here is the account of the day's sport:—After having let pass birds of small water-fowl, such as teal, grebe, pectoral, etc., duck, &c., we saw a large flock of wild geese. The launch having come up a little, the cannon was pointed to the flock. At a signal given by Lord Paget, a loud detonation, which made the mountains echo, was heard, and the air was obscured by the flight of these large birds, who for the first time found themselves troubled in their retreat. The surface of the lake was covered with geese, &c., flapping about, plunging, and trying in all haste to escape. Unfortunately the "sportsmen"—the *Courrier de Bone* is responsible for the phrase—had left their dogs on board the *Sainte Marie*, and it was with difficulty they could gather one-tenth of the victims. They got sufficient, nevertheless, to fill the boat, and the hunt with the cannon was continued during the day. Enough game was killed to fill with joy all our sportsmen of both France and Algiers. —Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News.

A COURT RETAINER UNDER SIX SUCCESSIVE SOVEREIGNS.

A whole series of epochs have elapsed since Catherine the Great ruled Russia, a few days ago a Court retainer was presented to the Czar at Gatchina, who had been posted on the head by that Sovereign when a boy, and given a gold coin, which he still wears round his neck. Trifon Vasiloff was born 93 years ago, and has served in succession six Sovereigns of Russia. When he first saw light, the Crimean coast had only been annexed to Russia a couple of years; Poland still possessed King, and covered an expense as big as modern France; Finland was an integral portion of Sweden; the Caucasus was the property of Persia, Turkey, and independent tribes; Central Asia was unannexed, and Russia hardly had any footing at all on the Pacific. Odessa, which the rapid growth of the Russian empire has rendered a relatively aged town, had no existence until he was a boy of nine, and for a considerable period afterwards occupied the same position in regard to Moscow, in point of communication, than Tashkend and Tоболск now hold. It is the interval between the time when Catherine the Great chattered to the early-bred boy at Peterhof, and that when Alexander III. questioned him, a grey, bearded man, at Gatchina, a few days ago, that the Russian population has increased from 25 to 101 millions. One can well imagine the conversion of Trifon Vasiloff to have been "extremely interesting to the Empress," as the *Officer* found out for the veteran Court retainer could not only tell his Majesty of his long service, but also repeat traditions of the epoch of Peter, in whose wars his grandfather had fought as a trooper.

THE DECAY OF BRICKS.

The wasting of brick walls into a friable state is usually attributed to the action of heat, wet and frost; but according to some recent observations of M. Parize, the real destroyer is a microscopic creature, and the action played by the weather is only secondary. He has examined the red dust of decaying bricks under the microscope, and found it to consist largely of minute living organisms. A sample of brick dust taken from the heart of a solid brick also showed the same minute animals, but in smaller numbers. The magnifying power of the instrument was 300 diameters. Every decaying brick showed the same kind of population, but the harder the brick the fewer were noticed.—*Engineering.*

HOW THE EGYPTIAN LAND TAX IS PAID.

In Turkey proper and the provinces directly subject to the jurisdiction of the Porte, the land tax is still universally collected in kind. It is farmed out to the highest bidder, after the custom which has obtained in all Oriental countries from the earliest times—a system, it is said, which most embarrasses to the Minister of Finance and most oppressive in operation towards the peasant proprietor or Crown tenant. The former can never reckon in advance on what the land revenue of any year will produce, for every year the tithe fetches a different price at the annual sales at Stambovl; while the latter is often mulcted in a fifth instead of a tenth, at the arbitrary valuation of the *sayyaf*, the difference going into this unscrupulous official's pocket. The taxpayer has virtually no redress, a compliance with his tyrant's demands being his only chance of saving what is left to him of his crops, which would otherwise be exposed indefinitely to the accidents of weather until the valuation was satisfied. The alarming decrease of the land under cultivation in Syria is mostly owing to the operations of this iniquitous system of collecting the land tax. Under the pretence of levying a rate of 12 percent, on the gross product of the land a tax has been for years extorted which left the farmer no possibility of gain at all, and consequently no encouragement to continue the business of agriculture. In Egypt, formerly, as in other parts of the Ottoman Empire, the fellahs were compelled to sell their produce to the Government officials, who substracted, before payment, the amount they claimed in taxation. But, even before Ismail's time, the Government began to substitute money payment; and now, all over the country, it is the rule rather than the exception for the fellahs to sell their produce to the *hajdar* and *osmukh* lands, to be paid in Egyptian piastres. For all that, the fellahs are nothing but safe from imposition. The Copt tax-gatherer, being of the old stock, enjoys a monopoly of the "wisdom" the Egyptians are now blessed with; and he sets to work with a perfect understanding of the national proverb that "however close you skin an onion, a clever man can always peel it again." He is usually Government registrar, as well as collector; and the power of fixing the rate to be levied affords him an ample scope for imposition. Starting with the knowledge that the fellah makes it a point of honour not to pay his *miri* or *zamzama*, it may be easily conceived that its collection is not an easy matter. Indeed, however delicate this unpleasant duty may be performed in Lower Egypt, which is more under the influence of dread of European opinion, it is pretty certain that in the upper Nile districts it would be often a very hard affair to maintain the balance between revenue and expenditure without that magician's wand, *zamzama*—the whip of hippopotamus hide judiciously applied to the soles of the feet of the recalcitrant fellah. In a village of the Saed or Upper Egypt, the mode of procedure is something in this wise. The Cairo authorities have sent their rescript to the master or head of a *midir* or province, instructing him to get in the land tax (which is pretty sure to be in arrears) with all possible expedition. The *midir* sends on the order to the various *muhamm*, or little local governors, of his *midir*, and the *muhamm*, in his turn, despatches his *shayekh* for the *Sheykh el-Bal*, the sheikh or paternal head of the village community. This worthy is admonished sharply to tell his brother fellahs to pay their *miri* without more ado. He leaves the great man's presence with a promise on his lips, but his heart to his slippers, and goes from mud-hut to mud-hut with the *zamzama* laying contribution. Doubtless the fellahs with this unscrupulous money-lending fraudulence that have brought him to his present plight, are seen up in the lipings of his blue cotton patricot, he betakes himself as a master of course to the little Greek merchant in the nearest town—Kos or Kosch, Asiatic or Aegean, as the case may be—and asked for "trifling advance." It is the fellah's dealing with this unscrupulous money-lending fraudulence that have brought him to his present almost hopeless pass. And he is still deeply in their debt. He had practically no other resources but to bargain away his birthright to "something down" when the *miri* on a field or acre was as much as 400 piastres. When he was thoroughly driven into a corner by the corvées and exactions of 1867-70 the Greek owners would only open their purse-strings at the rate of something like 30 per cent. per month. Now they will grant advances at 6 and even 4 per cent. per month. But they are very careful first to investigate their security, and will seldom lend at all until they have the guarantee of the *Sheykh el-Bal* or village chief, as to the borrower's responsibility. A Government register is kept of all such loans, and the rate of interest cannot be altered until the debt is paid. Sharks thus by their short-sighted fellah would rather go to those Greek usurers than to the *Credit Foncier* of Paris, if they can get him to "renounce" so long as the security of the farm is sufficient to cover principal and interest, whereas the Cairo Bank refuses advances after one or more failures to pay the interest on the original loan. But a scheme is now under the consideration of the Government which not only the chief lending establishment of Cairo—the Credit Foncier—but also the borrowing habits of the fellahs shall be brought under the direct control of the Egyptian Finance Minister. The proposal has naturally proceeded from the Credit Foncier itself, which is of course anxious that the lending business of the country should be attracted to its establishment, provided that the Government give them something like a guarantee for their advances. The scheme, as at present foreseen down, aims at fixing a maximum rate of interest to be charged for loans of the fellah, who, it is argued, could borrow with increased assurance on comparatively easy terms of repayment from a bank under Government supervision. The idea is said to meet with Lord Dufferin's approval; and, undoubtedly, any regulation which can be enforced to hold the rate of interest to a reasonable level will be an inestimable boon to the fellahs.—*Globe.*

Some words are here to follow. An old woman who has passed nearly 80 years of married life in a cook during the past forty years has never had ill a day in her life, and she is growing disengaged.

INSURANCES.

NATIONAL MARINE INSURANCE ASSOCIATION, LIMITED.

THIS Undersigned as Agents for the above are prepared to insure RISKS on Merchandise and Shipping Vessels from Hongkong, China, and Japan to all parts of the World.

For Further Information, apply to ADAMSON, BELL & CO., Agents, Hongkong, 19th May, 1883. [1883]

Hongkong, 19th May, 1883. [1883]

UNIVERSAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY.

ESTABLISHED 1834.

INSURANCES Effect for Life or Short Periods, on Joint Lives; and on the limit of payment system.

For Particulars, apply to LINSTEAD & DAVIS, Agents, Hongkong, 7th December, 1882. [1882]

Hongkong, 7th December, 1882. [1882]

IMPERIAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY.

The Undersigned Agents for the above Company are prepared to GRANT POLICIES against FIRE to the extent of \$600,000 any one.

FIRST-CLASS RISK.

RATES of INSURANCE ON BUILDINGS REDUCED to 1 per cent. NET PER ANNUUM FROM THIS DATE.

GIBB, LIVINGSTON & CO., Agents, Imperial Fire Insurance Company, Hongkong, 9th May, 1883. [1883]

Hongkong, 9th May, 1883. [1883]

SCOTTISH IMPERIAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

FILE AND LIFE.

INSURANCES against FIRE granted at Current Rates. Considerable Reduction in Premium for LIFE INSURANCE in China.

MAYER & CO., Agents, Hongkong, 3rd June, 1879. [1879]

Hongkong, 3rd June, 1879. [1879]

NOTICE.

THE CHINA FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

Prepared to ACCEPT FIRST-CLASS RISKS at 1 per cent. per annum, and other IN- STANCES at Current Rates.

AGENCIES at all the Treaty Ports of China and Japan, and at Singapore, Saigon, Penang, and the Philippines.

JAS. B. COUGHLTRIE, Secretary, Hongkong, 27th March, 1883. [1883]

HONGKONG AND MERCANTILE INSURANCE COMPANY.

The Undersigned Agents of the above Company are authorized to INSURE against FIRE at Current Rates.

GILMAN & CO., Agents, Hongkong, 1st January, 1882. [1882]

HONGKONG, 1st January, 1882. [1882]

THE MAN ON INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

HEAD OFFICE—HONGKONG.

CAPITAL (Fully Subscribed), \$1,000,000.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

LEWIS, Esq., President.

WAN HUP, Esq., Vice-President.

CHAN LI-CHU, Esq., Vice-Chairman.

YOK HU CHUEN, Esq.

The Company GRANTS POLICIES on MARINE RISKS to all parts of the World.

ROYALTY DEDUCIBLES are payable to all Contributors of Business, whether they are Shareholders or not.

WOOL LIN YUEN, Secretary.

HEAD OFFICE, No. 2, Queen's Road West, Hongkong, 14th March, 1881. [1881]

HONGKONG, 14th March, 1881. [1881]

LIVERPOOL AND LONDON AND GLOBE INSURANCE COMPANY.

The Undersigned Agents for the above Company are prepared from this date to GRANT POLICIES upon FIRST-CLASS RISKS to the extent of \$15,000, at the Reduced Tariff Rates.

DOUGLAS LAPRAK & CO., Agents, Hongkong, 14th Mar., 1881. [1881]

HONGKONG, 14th Mar., 1881. [1881]

NOTICE.

THE Undersigned have been appointed AGENTS to the NEW YORK BOARD OF UNDERWRITERS.

ARTHUR L. KARBERG & CO., Agents, Hongkong, 4th September, 1879. [1879]

HONGKONG, 4th September, 1879. [1879]

RECORD OF AMERICAN AND FOREIGN SHIPPING.

Agents, ARTHUR L. KARBERG & CO., Agents, Hongkong, 4th September, 1879. [1879]

HONGKONG, 4th September, 1879. [1879]

FORTUNA ALLGEMEINE VERGÜNT- BRÜNGS-ACTION-POLLESELCH AGT., BERLIN.

CAPITAL PAID UP—Mk. 1,500,000.

RESERVE FUNDS—Mk. 780,000.

ANNUAL INCOME—15,777/-.

THE Undersigned, having been appointed AGENTS of the above Company, are prepared to GRANT POLICIES on MARINE RISKS to all parts of the World.

ARTHUR L. KARBERG & CO., Agents, Hongkong, 1st January, 1882. [1882]

HONGKONG, 1st January, 1882. [1882]

SUN FIRE OFFICE.

Agents, ARTHUR L. KARBERG & CO., Agents, Hongkong, 4th September, 1879. [1879]

HONGKONG, 4th September, 1879. [1879]

NOTICE.

The Undersigned are prepared from this date to GRANT POLICIES against FIRE at the following Rates:

MARINE DEPARTMENT.

Policies issued at current rates, payable either here, in London, or at the principal Ports of India, China and Australia.

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Policies issued for long or short periods at current rates.

LIFE DEPARTMENT.